

PRESBYTIDINGS

400 W Central, El Dorado, Kansas, (316) 321-3790; E-Mail: officefpceld@gmail.com

"Like" us on Facebook for the Latest News: www.facebook.com/fpced

Church website: www.firstpreseldks.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

AUGUST 2018



COMMUNITY PIZZA DINNER

The following are signed up for the community pizza dinner on Saturday, August 4: Sheryle Dunbar-Food/Help, Jennifer Penner-Dessert, Carla Chrispens-Food, Sharon Decker-Food, Kendra Wilkinson-Food, Kate Niemann-Food/Help, Dorothy Miller-Help. Please have food at the church by 5:00 and helpers need to arrive by 4:30.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC AT EAST PARK

Mark your calendars for August 5th! Worship & Music and Fellowship Committees are planning to hold our worship service at 10:30 am at the shelter at East Park followed by an all church picnic. Fellowship Committee will provide fried chicken (donations accepted to help cover cost), drinks and table service. The congregation is asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs, too!



RALLY DAY AUGUST 26th!

Our Rally Day will again be moved up this year to August 26th to make it more in line with back to school. We also are planning a celebration of the talents within our congregation. Music (vocal or instrumental), readings, drama, puppetry, recitations – what is your performance gift? If you have a talent that you would enjoy

sharing, please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Tresa Garcia at garciatresa@gmail.com.

RALLY DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Be sure and join the excitement as we begin our Rally Day festivities with a pancake breakfast August 26th from 9:00-10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, sausage and orange juice will be served with a free-will donation.



ICE CREAM AND A CONCERT!!

August 26 from 6-8:00 in the evening please plan to join us at the Church for a great time of Fellowship, Homemade Ice Cream, and a Concert in the Sanctuary from a local Band named Road 23. They are a Family Worship Band that does Contemporary as well as Traditional. Stevie Warren, their Lead Singer many of you may recall, was our Contemporary Worship Leader a while back and she has a beautiful voice. Her husband, father, and brother are all part of the band. Their Website is www.road23music.com if you'd like to read about them, and listen to some of their music.

The Dream Team is organizing this as one of their projects and plan to sell tickets to the Community in addition to our Church Members. Please be looking for info on Facebook, and our Web Page as well as weekly E-News and announcements.

Ice Cream Social from 6-6:45, Concert in Sanctuary at 7:00. Tickets \$10 Adults.... Students \$5.... Children 5 and Under Free.

Love God; Nurture People; Make Disciples

We've discussed loving God and nurturing people, and we are on the third part of our mission: Make Disciples. In May, we learned that "A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ, and sharing Christ." (p. 25, Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations by Junius B. Dotson, Discipleship Ministries, 2017)

Coming to know Christ is, of course, a work of the Holy Spirit. One of the fundamental tenets of Reformed theology is that we are saved solely by faith and not by works. Faith is, itself, the gift of God—also not our own doing. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) Growing in Christ is also a work of the Spirit. With that knowledge as our foundation, it almost seems as if what we do makes no difference at all!

But based on human experience, we also know that it truly does make a difference what we do. James saw that some Christians were going too far in thinking that all they needed was faith in Christ and that their actions had no bearing on their faith. He wrote "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (James 2:14-17)

This is what we call a paradox—two things that appear to be contradictory but are both true. *Disciples* practice spiritual *disciplines*; notice that these two words have similar roots. "Spiritual disciplines" are sometimes also called the "means of grace." That term signifies practices we can use to open ourselves up to God's grace. There is nothing magical in the disciplines or means of grace, it is simply that

God has promised that if we use the means of grace, God will work within us to transform us. Of course, God can work within us anyway, but God has promised to work within us through these means and methods.

According to the Book of Confessions, in the **Shorter Catechism**, the means of grace are, "The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicate[s] to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer, all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation." Though there are certainly instances of God changing someone the moment they begin to read the Bible or the first time they utter an honest prayer, all of us can benefit from instruction.

Currently, several leaders in the church and all members of the Session are studying the book, Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups by Ruth Haley Barton. Before advancing to listening for God's voice together, we are beginning with listening for God in our individual practice of the means of grace. We're learning together about ways to read Scripture so that it becomes transformative—"living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) We are learning together how better to pray and how to listen for God in both Scripture reading and in times of prayer. Each of us has been given a different personality and makeup by God and, along with our commonalities, we also expect to find individual differences in how God speaks to us.

Growing as a disciple is crucial to our mission to Love God, Nurture People and Make Disciples.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Date	Attendance	Offerings
July 1	59	\$3999.88
July 8	70	\$3,456.51
July 15	67	\$1,651.00
July 22	65	\$2,242.10
July 29	44	\$6,774.00



YOUTH NEWS

As the month of July comes to a close, I'm reminded again of just how fast the summer flies by. It seems like just yesterday that the school year was ending, but we're really only several weeks out from starting school, again. It's going to get here fast! That means the school year program starts in the youth ministry, and I'm excited.

For those of you who attended the youth's mission trip church service, you heard about our Urban Plunge mission trip to Omaha, NE. Some people reading this surely couldn't make it that morning. We're sorry you couldn't, but the youth did a great job representing our church and serving the poorest and most disenfranchised of Omaha. We worked with several Christian ministries and did everything from serving food to organizing clothing and other items at two different thrift stores to spending time on a rehabilitative farm where the owners provide therapy to those recently released from prison. The farm animals play a key role in therapy as the owner/operators of the farm attempt to help men and women reorient themselves to society. Our students did such a great job, and they have a lot to be proud of!

Finally, we're getting geared up for the school year program in the youth ministry! Each year gives me a chance to work on building a more comprehensive curriculum as we deal with the biblical worldview and life. I'm always intrigued by how many different ways you can approach the Bible and Christianity. It's surely one of the most diverse teaching topics, and there are a lot of ways to look at the Bible. As the school year draws near and we start from the top, again, I definitely haven't forgotten about the fun, but I can't help but want to start the program with the existence of God. How do we know God exists? What are the intellectual arguments for the existence of God? How do we defend the Christian faith against those ideas that would try to assert it's false? How do we show Christianity is both true and unique in a pluralistic culture? These questions are so important because studies show that students tend to lose their faith in

college. They grow up in churches and learn about the Bible, but what happens when atheistic professors or those hostile to Christianity knock their blocks off in Philosophy 101? Learned, intellectual professors who reject Christianity can throw some hard questions at students. They need to be prepared to deal with it. Students need to be able to hear the against arguments and perspectives and still stand strong in their faith. That's my goal when I think about starting the school year; to help students learn how to defend their faith amidst a multitude of conflicting ideas and really know Jesus.

-John Simon

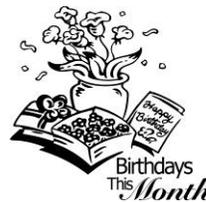
PW GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Join us for a Greek Meal prepared by Greek Stone Grill on Thursday, August 9th at 6:00 pm in the church parlor. One the menu is Build your own Fattouch Salad, Chicken Cavatappi and Baklava. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to bring a guest. Cost is \$13 per person and reservations are needed by August 8th. RSVP to Nita Whiteman at whiteman2@cox.net or call 316-322-3635.



TUGGS

TUGGS will be participating in the Dream Team fundraiser Road 23 Concert and Ice Cream reception instead of meeting at 6:00 on Aug 26th.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Avery Parsley, Anale Biby
- 2 - Calvin Varner
- 7 - Cassie Ogle
- 10 - Sharon Decker
- 16 - Kathy Shoemaker
- 18 - Virgil Biby
- 19 - Bob Taylor
- 20 - Jan Taylor
- 22 - Pat Bailey, David Bryson
- 23 - Megan Parsley, Kaden Clites
- 30 - Barbara Russell

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 - Jack & Linda Sanders
- 11 - Larry & Judy McCully



NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER WOODS



This summer at Westminster Woods we studied the Armor of God from Paul's writing in Ephesians 6:10-20. Chloe Shively, our summer Discipleship Coordinator, shared all about the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit during chapels. The Armor of God is imperative in our daily walk with the Lord. We hope and pray each camper left with a better understanding of how to use it. More than fifty campers decided to give their life to Christ at camp! Praise God for another wonderful summer at The Woods where His presence was known, His truth was heard, and His love was felt!

We had 35 young adults serve on Summer Staff this year! They played Gaga Ball, danced in Chapel, braided countless heads of hair, led devotions, sang porch songs, and SO much more. We are beyond grateful for their willingness to spend 7 weeks at The Woods loving campers and teaching them more about Jesus!

Westminster Woods was blessed with 39 high school students who gave up a week or two of their summer to spend helping camp through our Leadership and Service Development Program. They spent their time interacting with campers, doing projects around camp, helping with dishes, and learning about what it looks like to be a Christian leader!



AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Thurs, Aug 2, 5:30 pm-
Weight Watchers

Sat, Aug 4, 5:30 pm-
Community Pizza Dinner

Sun, Aug 5, 10:30 am-
Worship in the Park & picnic

Mon, Aug 6, 6:30 pm-Dream Team

Tues, Aug 7, 4:30 pm-Finance Committee, 6:30 pm-PNC

Wed, Aug 8, 6:30 pm-Trustees

Thurs, Aug 9, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-PW Girls' Night Out

Sun, Aug 12, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship

Thurs, Aug 16, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-Session

Sun, Aug 19, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High back to school pizza party

Wed, Aug 22, 6:30 pm-Middle School back to school pizza party

Thurs, Aug 23, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sat, Aug 25, 2:00 pm-Memorial service for Glenda Fisher

Sun, Aug 26, 9:00 am-Pancake Breakfast, 10:30 am-Rally Day Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High, 6:00 pm-Ice Cream Social and Road 23 Concert

Mon, Aug 27, 4:30 pm-Evangelism/Member Care

Wed, Aug 29, 6:30 pm-Middle School

Thurs, Aug 30, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers



VISITORS

July 1: Gladys Mort

July 8: Tanley & Aubrey Johnson, Shawn & Anabel Scheibmeir

July 15: Annie Talbert

July 22: Rachael Silverman, Brighton & Everly Nacarrato

July 29: No visitors listed



Congratulations to our First Presbyterian Church softball team!! They are the 2018 regular season Church League champs with a record of 5-2. They played hard in the tournament July 14th but came up short with two losses. Thanks to everyone that came out. We had a lot of fun cheering on our team!! Thanks also to Jon Dunbar for organizing our team!